

## ARTS EDUCATION

## Artists in Schools and Communities

## Grant program closes for FY15; reopens next spring

The Montana Arts Council's Artists in Schools and Communities grant program is now taking applications for FY15.

The Artists in Schools and Communities program provides matching funds that support a wide range of arts learning experiences and artist residencies for participants of all ages with professional working artists, as well as other special projects that support arts learning in schools and community settings.

Due to budget cuts, the program has run out of funding early in the last two fiscal years. The program will reopen next spring and begin taking applications for projects in the 2016 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2015.

It's never too early to start planning, and if you'd like to talk about a future project in your school or community, please call Director of Arts Education Emily Kohring at 406-444-6522 and she'll be happy to brainstorm with you.

In the meantime, the MAC staff would like to celebrate all the arts learning projects around the state that received funding this year through the Artists in Schools and Communities programs. They cover the state, and will provide experiences in arts learning for thousands of Montana students, young and old.

## Arts Learning Partners

Arts Learning Partners are select Montana arts organizations that have a proven record of providing high-quality arts learning experiences to participants both regionally and across the state of Montana.

• **A VOICE, Pablo:** \$7,500 for Our Community Record at Two Eagle River School, led by David Spear, which helps Native American high school students on the Flathead Reservation learn the art of photography while exploring their community, culture and history. Over 600 students have photographed family and community and have shared their work through community exhibitions over the 10-year span of the project.

• **Art Mobile of Montana:** \$10,000 for this statewide touring program with artist Whitney Polich, which offers interactive presentations of curated exhibits by Montana artists, quality hands-on art lessons, and teacher education. Art Mobile, the only program of its kind in Montana, educates students and adults about the diversity of the human experience, culture, practices, customs and history.

• **CoMotion Dance, Missoula:** \$10,000 for classroom dance residencies in western Montana. Dance teaching artists partner with K-12 classroom teachers to build classroom residencies where dance is used to reinforce learning in other subject areas, such as math and science. Students learn dance concepts while studying the layers of the rain forest, or learning place value; they also learn to create, perform, recognize, describe and demonstrate what they are learning through dance.

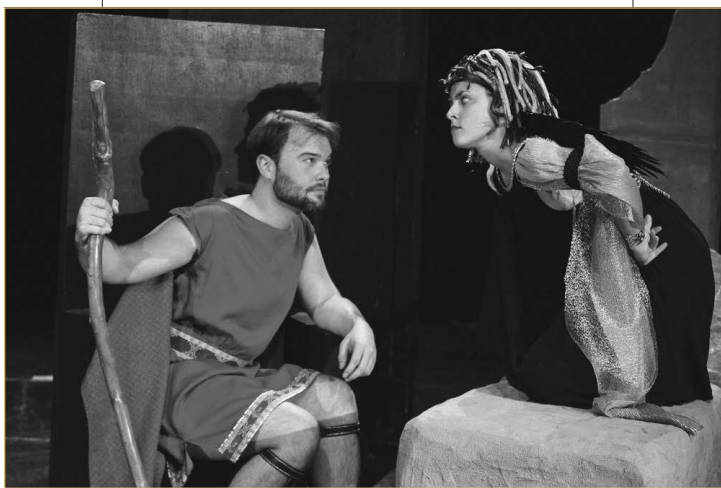
• **Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Bozeman:** \$10,000 for the statewide tour of Montana Shakespeare in the Schools, now in its 22nd year. The 2014 arts learning project was an 80-minute production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," along with related theatrical workshops for 49 middle and high schools across Montana.

• **Rosten Foundation, Ravalli County:** \$10,000 for the MAPS Media Institute, which offers courses in filmmaking, design, music and technology to students from four high schools in Ravalli County through a twice weekly after-school program. During courses, students complete a variety of projects, including problem-solving activities, and fee-based and pro-bono assignments in media arts, led by instructors who are professionals in the field.

• **VSA Montana, Fergus County and surrounding area:** \$10,000 for visual art

residencies with Carol Poppenga, who works with K-8 students in Central Montana rural schools and adults from Snowy Mountain Industries and the Central Montana Mental Health Center. Her monthly workshops are each dedicated to exploring an art medium that allows participants to develop skills and technique. All activities are adapted for various age groups and abilities.

• **Waterworks Art Museum, Custer County and surrounding area:** \$10,000 for the museum's Art Outreach Program, which offers art education to schools and community groups in 10 eastern Montana counties, up to 180 miles from the museum, with a focus on providing instruction that's not available to rural schools.



Jamie Parnell is Heracles and Heidi Mudd is Stheno, the Gorgon, in Montana Repertory Theatre's fall outreach tour, "Once Upon a Time in Ancient Greece." (Photo by Terry Cyr)

## Arts Learning Experiences and Artist Residencies

• **Arlee School District:** \$1,794 for "Our Places, Our Voices, Our Stories" with Clay Scott, a program that helps high schools students strengthen their interviewing, listening and storytelling skills as they gather and record oral histories for a podcast.

• **Cayuse Prairie School, Kalispell:** \$1,500 for an artist residency with Jan Lord, who introduces students to the works of major visual artists as they study the composition and design techniques of each.

• **Copper Village Arts Center and Museum, Anaconda:** \$1,000 for a summer theatre camp with Suzanne Konicek, who introduces students in grades 3-8 to the basics of musical theatre performance as they rehearse and perform a short production.

• **Great Falls Symphony:** \$1,999 for the Havre Strings Program with Great Falls Symphony musician Melanie Pozdol, who provides strings instruction to students of all ages. Students will develop proficiency on their instruments and take part in performance opportunities in the community.

• **Helena Presents/Myrna Loy Center:** \$1,800 for workshops in dance and puppetry for Helena students with Native American dancer and choreographer Rosey Simas and nationally-known puppetry artists from Sandglass Theatre.

• **Hot Springs Artist Society:** \$1,800 for Summer Circus Arts Camps with professional artists from the New Old Time Chautauqua. Classes for children during the day and an evening workshop for the community culminate in a parade and pageant on the final day.

• **LA Muldown Elementary, Kalispell:** \$700 for Dance and Literacy Integration with Leslie Yancey, who helps kindergarten students explore creative movement concepts that also help them actively learn their alphabet and vocabulary, as well as team work, self-esteem and collaboration skills.

• **Lewistown K-8 schools:** \$3,975 for "Animals in Myth and Legend," a series of art workshops with Cheryl Bannes based on animal stories from many cultures. Students will explore a variety of art styles while also exploring literary arts and multicultural learning opportunities.

• **Missoula Writing Collaborative:** \$4,000 for a six-month Middle School Creative Writing Residency with Chris Dombrowski

that culminates with a published anthology of student work and a public reading for all 7th grade students at C. S. Porter Middle School.

• **Montana Repertory Theatre, Missoula:** \$6,740 for the Theatre in Schools Outreach Tour, which brings "Once Upon a Time in Ancient Greece" to schools across the state, followed up by theatre workshops in the classroom for middle and high school students.

• **Northwest Montana United Way:** \$800 for a Good Grief Camp with the Drum Brothers, who help children ages 6-12 who have lost loved ones learn to drum and celebrate the lives of those they've lost.

• **Parents of Irving Children, Irving Elementary School, Bozeman:** \$3,125 for an artist residency with Chelsea Smith, who engages elementary students in a series of culturally rich visual arts activities, spanning a variety of different cultures.

• **Ponderosa Elementary, Billings:** \$1,250 for "Winter Counts at Ponderosa" with Monte Yellow Bird, who teaches students about the Plains Indian tribes and how they used pictographs to tell stories. Students will interview parents and family members to find out about their own heritage and draw important events on their own canvas hides.

• **Sunburst Foundation, Libby and Eureka:** \$1,000 for a songwriting residency with singer/songwriter Jonathan Kingham, who will spend a week at Libby and Eureka High Schools teaching songwriting workshops, culminating in a community concert with Kingham and the young songwriters.

• **Swan River School District No. 4, Bigfork:** \$3,000 for an artist residency with Jan Lord, who teaches weekly visual art classes to all K-5 students focused on building skills in drawing and painting.

• **The Flagship Program, Missoula:** \$840 for the Photovoice Experience with Brian Christiansen, a summer program aimed at empowering youth in the community to share their educational experience through the art of photography. The project ends with a showcase of the students' work.

• **Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, Big Sky:** \$2,400 for the Sojourn Theatre from Portland, OR, which stages performances of its interactive project, "How to End Poverty in 90 Minutes" and hosts drama-based workshops with students at Lone Peak High School on issues surrounding poverty.

• **YWCA of Missoula's YWCA GUTS!:** \$1,500 for Community Adventures with Turning the Wheel, whose artists offer weekly dance and theatre instruction to middle and high school girls from eight area schools, exploring themes of empowerment and self-esteem.

## Special Projects

• **Alberta Bair Theatre, Billings:** \$2,411 for "Dinosaurs of the Great Inland Sea" with Dr. Jack Horner. Following a three-part lecture by the world-renowned dinosaur expert, K-12 teachers will receive support to facilitate an arts learning project in their classroom where students express their knowledge about dinosaurs using the visual and media arts.

## Dance Integration (from previous page)

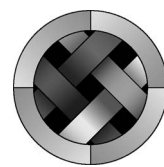
The plans are written in a conversational narrative and include additional notes for teachers. Each lesson explores an essential question relevant to the discipline and may be taught in sequence or as a stand-alone lesson.

*Dance Integration* is designed to help students meet important standards:

- Common Core State Standards for Mathematics
- Next Generation Science Standards
- Standards for Learning and Teaching Dance in the Arts

More importantly, say the authors, "this book will help you bring joy and excitement into your classroom. And it will help you awaken a community of active and eager learners. Isn't that what education is all about?"

The book is available in both softcover and e-book formats; learn more at [www.HumanKinetics.com](http://www.HumanKinetics.com).



## Scholastic Art and Writing Awards open

Submissions for the 2015 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards are now open. Grades 7-12 in public, private and parochial schools or home-school students in the U.S., Canada or American schools abroad are eligible to participate in 28 categories of art and writing.

Submissions are juried by luminaries in the visual and literary arts. Panelists look for works that best exemplify originality, technical skill and emergence of a personal voice or vision.

Interested students and educators can go to [www.artandwriting.org/the-awards](http://www.artandwriting.org/the-awards) to find out how to enter the competition. Deadline is Feb. 2, 2015.